

IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

Foreign Animal Disease Response

ICA Fact Sheet | November 2024

Foreign Animal Disease

A foreign animal disease (FAD) is a disease caused by a transmissible infectious agent, currently exotic to the U.S., with the potential for rapid spread, and the introduction of which would seriously affect access of American animals and animal products to foreign markets.

Everyone is responsible for reporting a suspected FAD, including producers and veterinarians. Always contact your veterinarian first if you suspect a FAD.

Pre-Outbreak Actions

Biosecurity

Good biosecurity practices minimize the opportunity for disease outbreak. It is recommended to utilize the existing biosecurity outbreak guidance outlined in the [Secure Beef Supply](#) (SBS). Within the SBS, there are outlined enhanced biosecurity practices for beef feedlots, cattle on pasture, and dairy cattle.

Register Your Premise

The ICA strongly encourages all cattle producers to register their cattle operation premise with IDALS. Information regarding the state's premise identification program can be found on their website: <https://iowaagriculture.gov/animal-disease-traceability>. The application asks for contact information, operation type, and species operation. Capacity information is not required. The Premise ID information is confidential and is not shared with other state or federal agencies for compliance purposes.

Registration is vital for a speedy response, quick notification to neighbors, and testing of adjacent livestock operations during an FAD outbreak. Once you have registered you will receive a letter from IDALS with your premise ID. It is recommended that operations update their premise information when changes occur, including expansion and retirement.

Iowa FAD Response

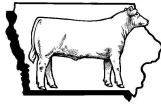
Standstill Order

Following a suspect or confirmed positive FAD in Iowa or elsewhere in North America, a general standstill order will be instated by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) or the USDA.

A standstill order is the discontinuing all transportation of susceptible animal species (animals capable of becoming infected with/or biological carriers of the FAD) on Iowa roadways for at least 72 hours while the Order is in place, penalizing any movements of susceptible species discovered. A grace period is permitted during an initial implementation of a standstill order. This grace period allows animals already in transit to either return to their point of origin or to their destination.

After 72 hours, the standstill order will be reassessed. If IDALS has determined that the FAD outbreak is not epidemiologically linked to any in-state herd or premise, intrastate movements may resume as

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normal. If IDALS has determined that a herd or premises in Iowa is positive for the FAD or epidemiologically linked to the outbreak, movements may be allowed on a permitted basis. In order to expedite movements, IDALS may start accepting permit requests when the Standstill Order is first enacted in-order to assess if the movements would meet the minimum requirements once the Order has been lifted.

Control and Monitoring Zones

Once the exposed farms are identified, disease control areas are established around these farms. Around the infected premise, an (1) infected zone, (2) buffer zone, (3) control area, and (4) surveillance zone will be established. Each zone allows animal health officials to expand the investigation in the infected area and nearby susceptible animals near the exposed premises.

Quarantine Protocols

To stop the spread of the FAD, animal health officials will quarantine farms that have potentially been exposed to the FAD. The quarantine prohibits the movements on and off the farm.

Premises with susceptible species will be issued an (1) affected quarantine or (2) non-affected quarantine. The affected quarantine is issued to infected premises (IP) or contact premises (CP). Non-affected quarantine are any premises in the control area that has no high risk contact with an IP or CP.

Animal Movement Permitting

Once a farm is quarantined, some movements on and off may be allowed with written authority from state animal health officials. This written authority takes the form of a movement permit. During a response, permitting requirements will be publicly available on the IDALS website.

Cleaning & Disinfection

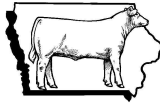
Animal health officials establish specific criteria to end restrictions on quarantined farms. This may include a process of cleaning and disinfecting the farm's facilities, equipment, etc. to ensure new animals moved onto the farm do not become sick with the FAD.

FAD Communication

Focused and timely communication will be important to maintain consumer confidence, both domestically and abroad. During an FAD, ICA and the Iowa Beef Industry Council staff will implement a communication strategy to both producers and consumers as a part of the state's response plan.

During a FAD response, IDALS and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management will interact with the respective County Emergency Manager. To carry out the provisions of Iowa law, county boards of supervisors, city councils, and the sheriff in each county must appoint an emergency management coordinator. This individual will be responsible for linking state and federal agencies to local resources in light of an FAD response. County Emergency Managers are trained to respond to various disasters, including FADs. ICA encourages cattlemen to know your county officials in preparation of an FAD outbreak.

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Outbreak Plan

Depopulation

If an FAD is detected on your premise, depopulation may be recommended to maximize biocontainment procedures and reduce the overall viral burden of an infected premises. The goal is to have all infected and exposed premises depopulated as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, after the confirmed diagnosis.

IDALS may consider various methods during an FMD outbreak and the method chosen may depend on resource availability, premises and herd size, and worker safety concerns. However, regardless of the method chosen, if a producer wishes to seek indemnity for depopulated animals, USDA APHIS must preapprove the method. Any animal that dies prior to depopulation will not qualify for indemnity.

Disposal

In most cases during an FMD outbreak IDALS will require on-site disposal of animal carcasses and other associated materials. On-site disposal eliminates the need to move carcasses great distances and eliminates potentially moving live virus off the premises. During an FMD outbreak in most cases IDALS will require the animal owner to utilize one of the following on-site disposal methods:

- above ground burial,
- incineration,
- composting.

Vaccination - where applicable

While vaccines against FMD exist, there are seven known types and more than 60 subtypes of the FMD virus and immunity to one type does not provide cross protection. Instead, vaccines must be closely matched to the viral strain circulating.

In the event of a FMD detection in Iowa, IDALS will work with USDA APHIS to vaccinate at-risk animals and stop further spread. Vaccination Strategies include:

- Vaccinate-to-kill: killing means any procedure which causes the death of an animal that does not enter the human food chain.
- Vaccinate-to-slaughter: slaughter means any procedure which causes the death of an animal by bleeding where the animal may enter the human food chain.
- Vaccinate-to-live: the animal is allowed to live out its useful life-span.

Be Prepared

It is unlikely producers and the industry will ever be fully prepared for an FAD outbreak. But education and implementation of the points provided above are the first steps of being better prepared. Unfortunately livestock producers in Iowa have experienced devastating FAD outbreaks recently, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). When producers were prepared to take ownership of sites and operations, clean-up occurred more swiftly, when compared to producers that were ill-equipped.

Stay Connected

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association will continue to educate members on FAD preparation and response plans. ICA works closely with other industry groups to update the state's FAD response plans.

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